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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Operational activities of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 44/171 of 19 December 1989, the General Assembly requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to include in his 1991 report on operational activities for development of the United Nations system a separate chapter on United Nations efforts to integrate women in development, both as a mainstream and specific activity of the United Nations system. The requested chapter is contained in section III of the annual report and this addendum provides further information on the subject.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 45/188 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Director-General to include in his annual report on operational activities for development, a section on the activities being undertaken by the United Nations system to promote entrepreneurship in economic development.

3. Section IV of the annual report contains brief fact sheets on the activities in this field of 17 organizations and entities of the United Nations system.

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* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on Operational Activities

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I. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

A. General issues

1. This section of the addendum summarizes the information and assessment of issues of women in development in the United Nations system, which was provided to the office of the Development and International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), and supplements section B of the annual report. More complete information is contained in a report by DIEC, which is available in English only.

2. How best to deliver programmes for women has been a much debated issue. The concept of mainstreaming women in development, i.e. the integration of women as participants in and beneficiaries of mainstream programmes and projects, has gained ground over previous programme policies directed exclusively at women. Gender-sensitive mainstream projects are considered a more effective way of reaching large numbers of women and ensuring them significant benefits.

3. An analysis of the mandates of United Nations agencies relating to women in development reveals their diversity. a/ The role of mandates vary in their extent and importance. There has been success by agencies in establishing clear-cut mandates, but implementing programmes and projects related to women in development has been more difficult.

4. Within the United Nations system effective institutional arrangements and procedures for implementation of projects on women in development are in place. Institutional mechanism used to translate mandates into action include Divisions on women in development, focal points and task forces.

5. An increasing number of units and focal points were established in various organizations. Their function is to ensure that issues related to women in development are fully and effectively incorporated into the policy framework of programmes, and in all operational activities of their organization. Focal points can vary in size from a single staff member to established units, depending on the availability of resources and the policy emphasis of the organization. At present, there are a total of 80 focal points in the United Nations system. An apparent drawback to the effectiveness of focal points throughout much of the system is that many are assigned this function in addition to other professional duties.

6. One of the effective tools for the promotion of women in development is training of staff and national officials responsible for operational activities. Although data on evaluations of such training are limited, there are indications from interviews carried out with different agencies that United Nations staff generally still lack sufficient expertise, awareness, and experience on issues relating to women in development.

7. Coordination at the system level of the United Nations includes an Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women, which meets annually, chaired by the Division for the Advancement of Women in CSDHA (Vienna) that serves as the focal point for women in the United Nations system, and the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women which reports to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

8. At the organizational level, the effectiveness of women in development depends on the level and degree of institutional support, and human and financial resources. The record of financial outlays of regular programmes is uneven; activities related to women in development are not given sufficient financial resources and staff, which leads to excessive reliance on extrabudgetary resources.

9. As concerns operational activities, effective allocation of resources for women in development often depends on whether planners pay heed to the needs and priorities of the target population, and on the awareness of programme and project planners of the issues. Mainstream development projects that respond to the needs of women have been judged more successful by securing financial allocations to sectors, such as health, education, credit, employment, than projects which fail to address these concerns.

10. The Human Development reports of UNDP for 1990 and 1991 analyse the linkages between economic growth and human progress. The 1991 report adjusts the Human Development Index, the gender factor in 30 countries for which data are available. In those countries, it reveals a significant lower index for women. b/ Improving women's index is particularly important in countries which had to cut back social programmes in the context of structural adjustment programmes.

11. Statistics from many countries indicate that the role of women is undergoing a transformation. Some of the factors responsible for the change include shifting economic conditions; the impact of structural adjustment policies; demographic changes; and increased migration, particularly the enormous rise in refugees. c/ There has been an increase in the number of households headed by females. Globally one out of three households is headed by women, a fact that has led to many alterations in female roles and activities. These changing roles are not always recognized. Decades of development operation have not altered these realities. This is evident across all economic and social sectors - in terms of access to education, to food and health care, to income and property. For example, despite significant increases in primary and secondary school enrolment in developing countries in the past three decades, literacy rates for women are still only two thirds those for men.

12. All too often, women's activities still remain outside the mainstream of development policy, plans and programmes. Although women are the centre of the family and are active participants and partners in development, they often remain outside the formal framework of projects and programmes concerning the entire family. Since women as producers are often concentrated in the

informal sector, large-scale projects often tend to neglect their role and needs as development agents.

13. For women in development through mainstreaming to be effective, the entire system of United Nations organizations must be mobilized into comprehensive action. Dynamic recognition of the women's role in the development process, and even greater inter-agency collaboration and coordination is an important prerequisite for successful delivery of programmes to target populations at the grass roots. It would also result in the better use of limited human and material resources.

14. Among the steps which were taken so far are to translate women in development issues into operational activities are the following:

(a) The establishment of institutions and procedures, including training of both staff and national counterparts;

(b) Strengthened institutional mechanisms for ensuring that gender issues are included in policies and programming;

(c) Guidelines for project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account women's issues by most United Nations agencies;

(d) Training to achieve greater sensitivity concerning the issue, remains an important priority;

(e) At the country level project documents of some organizations include specific sections on women in development objectives, and some organizations are including gender-sensitive dimensions in project design.

15. A number of organizations have conducted internal evaluations of women in development activities and these conclusions were reached: (a) insufficient efforts are made to take special needs of women into account in project design, and women are seldom considered a target group; (b) a problem in integration of women in development appears to be lack of recognition and awareness of women's role in development and inadequate know-how to make operational issues of women in development in mainstream programming, due in part to inadequate staff training and non-implementation of existing guidelines, instructions and procedures; (c) many agencies do not have mandatory reporting on women in development although in some organizations efforts are underway in this regard.

16. Experience shows that at the national level, institutional capacity of women in development is essential for ensuring that issues are identified and targeted in national development programmes. It is important to guard against their marginalization by isolating such mechanisms from key decision-making processes. To mainstream women in development effectively into the principal sectoral ministries, it must be integrated into the decision-making process involving senior policy matters.

17. National statistical services still collect too little data on the economic contribution, productivity and income of women. More data on work and employment should be gathered, taking explicit account of all economic activities. Income, employment, wage and industrial and agricultural statistics disaggregated by sex need to be made generally available. Other priorities are developing integrated statistics on rural income, production and access to resources and services disaggregated by sex. The capabilities of national institutions concerned with statistics and women's issues should be improved to implement this work in the regular statistical programmes and to make effective use of these statistics in the policy planning process.

18. So far, organizations of the United Nations system keep inadequate gender-disagreggated data on women in mainstream activities. None the less, some progress was achieved in this area. The United Nations Statistical Office, with UNFPA as a funding agency, has developed a database (Women's Indicators and Statistics and Indicators Microcomputer Data Base (WISTAT)), which is increasingly recognized as the leading data programme for the United Nations system, and as a framework for developing national databases. A new type of international statistical publication is to appear shortly. d/

B. Thematic issues

1. Education

19. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 44/171, the General Assembly specifically called for information on the thematic issues. A summary of extensive information provided by all organizations and entities of the United Nations system is provided below.

20. While United Nations figures show a substantial rise in the number of girls enrolled in school in the past 30 years, this increase has so far failed to eliminate the broad disparity between the sexes. Basic elementary education is not yet available to a large percentage of the world's children, and in this matter girls are particularly disadvantaged. Although there have been great gains in literacy worldwide, women continue to have lower literacy rates than men. In developing countries, on average about half the women are illiterate compared to one third of men. And about two thirds of adult women, compared to half the men, have not attended school at all.

21. Continued progress in women's education is central to ensuring better access to employment opportunities, better family planning, health and nutrition. Progress in this realm can be the harbinger of expanding opportunities in the future. The United Nations system is focusing on this important issue. In March 1990 UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank held a World Education Conference on the theme of education, and the constraints were examined. One of the main themes of the World Conference on Women, to be held i 1995, is the eradication of female illiteracy by the year 2000.

22. By preparing women for productive employment and providing them with the means to upgrade and adopt their skills to rapidly changing requirements the range of opportunities is being enlarged leading to gainful employment and increasing responsibilities. Particularly through ILO, the United Nations system is carrying out activities to enhance the career opportunities of women in the work place.

2. Health

23. There is a growing recognition that women's health, and their role in promoting health care, are the key to better health for everyone. Yet the general information available indicates that in much of the world women are at a disadvantage to men in terms of most health indicators. Failure to give women medical attention similar to men and to provide them with comparable food and social services result in fewer women surviving. When given the same care as men, females tend to have better survival rates. e/

24. Although in terms of life-span expectancy the average female lives longer, female babies born in poorer countries have a shorter life than those in developed countries. Repeated childbearing, short birth intervals and pregnancy at an early age also adversely affect women's health. In addition, the pressures negatively impacting their health extend to their offspring. The impact of AIDS is placing an increasing stress on women, a situation exacerbated by reduced allocations to health in the majority of developing countries. f/

25. Health programmes are recognizing that target groups most at risk are women in childbearing age and children. Major changes in government health programmes are underway to give greater emphasis to primary health care and community-based health systems with support by WHO and UNICEF. UNICEF with its focus on the girl child is addressing their health needs and stressing water and sanitation programmes and their management by women. g/ Many United Nations agency programmes - particularly UNICEF and the World Bank - are increasingly addressing female nutrition. ILO focuses on women's work-related health hazards that often are compounded by the stress and exhaustion deriving from conflicting time pressure arising from family, work and household tasks.

3. Population

26. As mentioned in section I.A, the question of putting in place policies and programmes designed to reduce population growth rates in the many developed countries where they are judged to be too high is central to sustainable development. Unchecked population growth intensifies the strain on the environment on limited natural resources, and on various social programmes such as education and health.

27. The United Nations system is addressing these issues. WHO and UNFPA have convincingly demonstrated the effectiveness of the multilateral and

multisectoral approach in health and population matters, including family planning and maternal and child health care programmes. UNFPA devotes approximately 50 per cent of its resources to family planning. Family planning not only helps to reduce fertility levels, but also helps to improve women's health, as well as the health of their offspring. It gives women more time for education and training, and to participate in economically productive activities.

4. Environment

28. The issue of women and the environment has received renewed attention in the past 10 years. h/ It is clear that women, as managers of the world's resources, play a key role in their preservation, particularly since in developing countries they produce about 50 per cent of the food, as a result of their role in agriculture (as much as 75 per cent in Africa). The marginal resources available to poor rural women are being further depleted, in some areas, by the negative effects of environmental degradation (for example, desertification, soil erosion, deforestation, overgrazing).

29. Many United Nations agencies have begun implementing programmes on women and the environment. UNEP is making special efforts to support women in the context of the environment. The impact of such United Nations programmes are still limited because of the paucity of financial allocations earmarked.

5. Employment

30. Globally, a larger proportion of the female-labour force is unemployed and underemployed; the wage gap between men and women remains substantial; and occupational segregation is an important issue, because it is at the root of inequality of pay between the sexes. Despite the increase in employment of women globally, including their entry into the paid labour force in large numbers, women are disproportionately represented in low-skilled, low-paying jobs. Women are often concentrated in the informal sector, where they play an important economic role, yet are still not fully recognized and incorporated into the mainstream economy. Moreover, the impact of structural adjustment policies in developing countries has led many women to fall back into poverty. The issue of employment, including rural self-employment, vocational training remains an important priority. Unemployment, low pay and unskilled work condemn women to impoverishment.

31. Most United Nations organizations have programme components dealing with some aspects of female employment, self-employment or training schemes. Innovative development programmes are being designed to respond to women's special needs, mainly by ILO, UNIDO and UNDP. ILO, which has an overall responsibility for employment issues within the United Nations system, promotes equal access for women to employment through research, advisory services and technical cooperation. The latter are aimed especially at poor women, providing survival strategies through programmes related to employment

training and organization. Programmes and projects giving support to women as agricultural producers are growing, especially those by FAO; female access to credit is being increasingly addressed by many agencies, including IFAD, ILO, the World Bank and UNDP; the World Bank and IFAD are funding programmes providing agricultural extension services to women, and FAO has training programmes for female extension workers; and employment or vocational training programmes for women are also on the rise. Rural employment is being addressed largely by the World Food Programme (WFP) where 80 per cent of beneficiaries of the Food-for-Work programme are women (the female component of which is currently valued at $823 million a year with the programme comprising two thirds of all WFP aid).

6. Participation in decision-making

32. The economic advancement of women is closely interrelated with their full participation in the decision-making process of national policy formulation, planning and programming. Future progress in this realm is largely the purview of national governments. The United Nations system, through programmes of technical cooperation, can contribute by ensuring that women issues are addressed at all phases of programmes and projects, by including women in these processes, and by sensitizing the responsible persons to these questions. For example, ILO, UNIDO and UNDP focus on female management training and increasing female membership in training unions in some of their programmes. However, statistics on female representation at higher levels of management show how much more work needs to be done in this area.

33. In this respect, it might be interesting to provide an overview of women professional staff in the United Nations system. The table below compares women professional staff in 1986 and 1989 by location (Headquarters, other offices - usually field offices, and in projects). The data show that at headquarters the percentage of women professional staff increased from 23.4 per cent to 25.9 per cent and that total women staff increased from 19.1 per cent to 22.2 per cent for the system as a whole.

Women professional staff in United Nations system:
1986 and 1989, by organizational location

Category	Year	Headquarters	Other offices	Project	Total
Women staff	1986	2 016	981	610	3 607
Total staff		8 594	4 867	5 370	18 831
Percentage of women		23.4	20.1	11.3	19.1
Women staff	1989	2 249	1 229	766	4 234
Total staff		8 669	5 297	5 067	19 033
Percentage of women		25.9	23.0	15.1	22.2

Source: Based on CCAQ (PER) Personnel Statistics for 1986 and 1989.

II. ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A. Background

34. By its resolution 41/182 on indigenous entrepreneurs in development adopted on 8 December 1986, the General Assembly underlined the role and responsibility of each Government to promote development and to provide an environment conducive to it, and noted that indigenous entrepreneurs can play a crucial and positive role in mobilizing resources and in promoting economic growth. Furthermore, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General and all relevant organs of the United Nations system to support, among other things, the efforts of States in encouraging the activities of their indigenous entrepreneurs.

35. In 1990, the Economic and Social Council drew up a draft resolution on the role of entrepreneurship, and by its decision 1990/265, recommended that the General Assembly consider the draft at its forty-fifth session. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly had before it, in addition to this draft resolution, a report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/45/292) and on 21 December 1990, adopted resolution 45/188 of 21 December 1990, entitled "Entrepreneurship". The resolution underscores the important role of entrepreneurship, notably in the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, in mobilizing resources and in the advancement of economic growth and socio-economic development. Among other things, it calls for international support of specific programmes for the development of private enterprise, in particular in the least developed countries, promotion of domestic and foreign direct investment, management training and small-scale ventures.

36. By paragraph 7, the General Assembly requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to include in the annual report on operational activities for development a section on the activities being undertaken by the United Nations system to promote entrepreneurship in economic development. Section IV of the annual report contains a brief analysis of these activities and responds to the request to make proposals for enhancing the role of entrepreneurship in the development process, in particular in developing countries.

B. Fact sheets on the activities of the organizations and entities of the United Nations system

1. United Nations

(a) Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

37. The mandate of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in this field was reiterated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/182, on indigenous entrepreneurs in development, adopted on 8 December 1986 and 45/188.

38. DIESA devoted issue No. 18 (1988) of its Journal of Development Planning to "Entrepreneurship and Economic Development". A comprehensive bibliography on the subject was also compiled. In addition, the Department prepared two reports of the Secretary-General on issues pertaining to entrepreneurship, namely "Indigenous entrepreneurs in economic development" in 1988 and "National entrepreneurs in economic development" in 1990.

39. DIESA Programme on Entrepreneurship and Economic Development is complemented by its International Programme on Savings and Credit for Development, which also addresses the financial aspects of the development of entrepreneurship. The Programmes have evolved as a complement to the relevant technical cooperation and operational activities of other United Nations organs by focusing on strengthening the link between research, policy formulation and technical cooperation. DIESA is planning a series of regional symposia on entrepreneurship and economic development, with a focus on the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises. For 1991 symposia are planned for Asia in October and for Eastern Europe and Africa in December. While the symposium in Africa will address the question of the financial infrastructure for entrepreneurship development, the symposia in Asia and Eastern Europe will focus on policy environment and specific issues of enterprise development. Symposia for Latin America and Africa are planned for 1992 and 1993, respectively. Furthermore, in 1992 the World Economic Survey will include a chapter on entrepreneurship and economic development in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/188.

(b) United Nations Centre for Transnational Corporations

40. The mandate of the Centre in this field has been spelled out by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1990/71, which requested CTC to continue its efforts to develop its programmes of support for cooperative activities of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. On the basis of the EMPRETEC programme CTC provides support to small and medium-sized enterprise development through linkages with transnational corporations in six countries. Management and coordination of the programme takes place through a special unit based in New York. To create an enabling environment, EMPRETEC promotes private and public sector cooperation through, inter alia, establishment of executive committees composed of public officials and representatives of the business community, which advises and assists entrepreneurs in realizing their projects.

41. EMPRETEC Business Support Centres provide technical support to EMPRETEC participants and facilitate linkages with local companies and transnational corporations, which contribute expertise in the form of Executive Advisers to participant entrepreneurs. A national counterpart organization houses the offices of the business support centres and provides supporting services to the Centres. The centres are developing, in cooperation with local universities, management schools and private or government training institutions, curricula for training programmes targeted to the immediate needs of the entrepreneur. EMPRETEC entrepreneurs associations act in each

country as solidarity groups and promoters of business interchanges among EMPRETEC participant members within the country and with members of the associations in other countries.

42. Workshops on entrepreneurship are conducted by the programme to develop entrepreneurial talent and train entrepreneurs in business plan preparation. In addition, workshops and seminars are organized to discuss specific topics related to business operations, and monthly round tables are held to exchange experience with established successful business people and provide role models. EMPRETEC has undertaken joint activities with UNIDO through workshops on negotiating joint ventures and technology transfer, and sector specific entrepreneurship training. EMPRETEC also cooperated with the International Trade Centre (ITC) UNCTAD/GATT in supporting entrepreneurs interested in export development.

43. The programme works in close cooperation with private and public finance institutions in an effort to assess local capital requirements, develop finance mechanisms, and identify sources of loan and risk capital. Transnational corporations provide pro bono experts for technical cooperation to entrepreneur in areas such as management, finance, marketing, production and quality control. They also offer opportunities for subcontracting, technical assistance agreements, licensing arrangements and joint ventures.

(c) Department of Technical Cooperation for Development

44. The Department has distinct mandates stressing policies for entrepreneurial and private sector involvement in development projects. They include the mobilization of private domestic savings and local resources, strengthening of capabilities to identify investment opportunities, institutional development for the promotion of entrepreneurial activity, and the relationship of the public and private sector. In recent years greater emphasis has been given to national entrepreneurial capacities, particularly in small-scale mining, private enterprise for the production of water-pumping equipment and operation of local water projects, their maintenance and financial management.

45. Technical cooperation activities of the Department include policies for entrepreneurial and private sector involvement (i.e. policy for the mobilization and the efficient use of private domestic savings; policies to encourage institutional development which supports entrepreneurial activity; and assistance to local organizations to identify and implement income generating activities). A joint workshop with DIESA will address issues of policy frameworks, promotional measures and technical cooperation requirements for entrepreneurial development.

46. Several projects in Africa have training components for former government officials to facilitate their entry into the private sector. A water project in Niger has trained and equipped 90 village craftsmen for maintenance and repair of hand pumps. In the field of management, the Department plans to

organize specific training programmes in basic financial management for small and medium-sized enterprises.

47. A number of projects strengthen the national capacities to identify investment opportunities and to disseminate information. The Department maintains a roster of contractors and vendors from developing countries, often medium-sized, from whom it purchases considerable amounts of equipment and services.

(d) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

48. UNCTAD's mandates in this area arise from requests of the Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) to promote increased investment flows between enterprises of developing countries, to facilitate joint venture activities between enterprises and to support existing regional business information and promotion centres. Mandates arising from the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries relate, among other things, to improving the efficiency of state enterprises by operating competitively and relying on market signals, evaluating their performance and, where appropriate, to consolidate or to privatize them. Other UNCTAD mandates are to study national technology policies and their role in promoting entrepreneurial capabilities. The provisional agenda of the eighth session of UNCTAD to be held in 1992 contains an item on the adoption of sound national and international policies and measures, good management and structural reforms in both developed and developing countries. This necessarily involves an analysis of, as well as recommendations on, the role of the enterprise sector.

49. UNCTAD's first Enterprise Symposium was convened in 1987 in the context of the preparations for the seventh session of UNCTAD. A high-level expert meeting on the role of the enterprise sector in the development of the least developed countries (LDCs) was held in 1989. A study on a similar subject was prepared for a regional symposium on trade policy and planning for LDCs of Asia and the Pacific.

50. To stimulate South-South private investment flows, UNCTAD compiles and disseminates information on investment laws and regulations of developing countries.

51. UNCTAD supports efforts of the Group of 77 to establish a cooperation mechanism among the chambers of commerce of member countries. Several specialized meetings were organized with UNDP support in Latin America and Africa. Studies on costs and benefits of foreign private direct investment were prepared for the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade. A recent study was conducted on privatization of state-owned enterprises, examining financial and other problems of privatization programmes. Another recent study dealt with the role and influence of state-owned enterprises on investment, savings, production and employment.

(e) United Nations Development Programme

52. The purpose of UNDP activities in this field is to help Governments design supportive policies and institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship and private initiative, increasing financial flows through investment promotion and capital market development. A new Division for the Private Sector, assisted by a Private Sector Inter-bureau Task Force, is the focal point for UNDP activities in this field.

53. UNDP is helping to launch an intensive government-private sector dialogue through a series of subregional and country consultative meetings on institutional changes, policy reform, and international cooperation. Investor forums were established in collaboration with UNIDO to develop business opportunities and joint ventures. Support provided to many Governments to formulate policy, reform fiscal and monetary systems and to establish enabling environments for entrepreneurship.

54. Seminars and workshops have been organized by UNDP in collaboration with the World Bank to promote entrepreneurial skills and devise methodologies for privatization. Nationals from the business community are being recruited in interested countries to assist UNDP Resident Representatives to promote entrepreneurship. TOKTEN and UNISTAR programmes are providing high-level experts for technical and managerial advice.

55. A network for privatization has been created to facilitate information sharing around the world. Project preparation facilities are set up in many parts of Africa to assist national entrepreneurs to obtain financing for business proposals.

56. Venture capital and growth funds were developed in collaboration with financial institutions and private investors, leading to mobilization of international resources to support creation of small and medium-sized enterprises. Support to credit and lending institutions to improve their services to small and medium-sized enterprises is being provided. Business incubator activities and technology parks are established in many countries to encourage small enterprises and indigenous technologies. The United Nations Capital Development Fund and UNIFEM are producing support mechanisms for small enterprises and credit schemes.

(f) United Nations Population Fund

57. UNFPA's involvement in enhancing the role of entrepreneurship in the development process covers two main areas: income-generating activities for women and local production of contraceptives. In the first instance, funding of income-generating activities is part of UNFPA's continuing commitment to the promotion of women in all activities it supports. The rationale for supporting income-generating activities for women is that such activities, when successfully implemented, greatly enhance the role of women and their social status in the community. On the other hand, in countries with

sufficient demand for contraceptives, assistance for local production of contraceptives aims at making countries self-reliant in manufacturing contraceptives through the provision of production facilities and technical assistance and training in logistics and management. While individual projects in the two areas already contain plans for evaluation, in 1992 UNFPA will conduct two comparative evaluations on income-generating activities and on local production of contraceptives in order to assess on a global level the impact of these activities.

(g) Economic Commission for Africa

58. ECA holds the view that the failure of African countries effectively to use the private sector has been a dominant factor in their continuing economic decline. Among the causes are the structural weaknesses of the industrial sector and the scarcity of active entrepreneurs. Many African countries are seen to have overemphasized the use of the public sector in the development process. Against this background, ECA adopted a number of resolutions emphasizing the role of entrepreneurship in Africa's growth. Major policy documents stressing this approach include: "The African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-Economic Recovery and Development"; "The Role of Women in Africa in the 1990s"; and "The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development".

59. Specific projects were undertaken to promote small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship. ECA is implementing a UNDP-supported project dealing with managerial issues for selected state trading organizations in countries south of the Sahara. A project on small-scale industries is being implemented in collaboration with the government of India. A project on women's role in informal sector production and management aims, among other things, at improving the policy environment and the institutional framework for planning and for formulating strategy. The "Special Action Programme for Administration and Management in Africa" promotes entrepreneurship through seminars and workshops, i.e. a senior policy seminar on enabling environment for enhanced entrepreneurship in Africa. A project on credit support systems for productive activities of women, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), aims at establishing baseline data on the provision of credit to women in four African countries, especially in the agricultural, handicraft and service sectors.

60. ECA, with the support of ITC and PRODEC (Finland), organized a training seminar for women business executives and public officials concerned with export marketing and import management. The African Training and Research Centre for Women is training women business owners in management and entrepreneurial skills. A UNDP funded project on improving women's role in the informal sector addresses the role of women in the informal sector by providing access to credit, training facilities, marketing and technological advice. Two workshops are planned on entrepreneurship for cottage and small-scale industries.

61. Advisory missions were undertaken on various aspects of entrepreneurship promotion, including country studies, sharing of information and identification of potential. An expert group meeting will consider the creation of a regional association of women entrepreneurs. Future assistance will turn to inter-trade links for development of marketing potentials.

62. ECA, in collaboration with the International Association of State Trading Organizations (ASTRO), is providing technical cooperation to expand the role of African entrepreneurs through multinational marketing enterprises.

(h) Economic Commission for Europe

63. ECE is addressing the problems of economic reform in Eastern European countries and of transition from centrally planned to market economies. It is designing programmes to deal with privatization and adjustment of government policies and institutions. ECE assists the process of restructuring state enterprises, to equip them to operate in competitive markets, and to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to engage in international trade.

64. ECE prepares practical guides for use by both government officials and businessmen. A guide under preparation deals with legal aspects of privatization in industry.

65. A workshop on the management of joint ventures has been organized in cooperation with the Austrian government. It deals with needs and programmes for the formation of efficient managers in the countries in transition to market economies.

66. Three workshops on standardization were scheduled to be held in 1991 to support countries in transition overcome obstacles to the development of their trade. ECE carried out a comprehensive study, and supporting survey, on the impact of East-West trade on small and medium-sized enterprises.

(i) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

67. ECLAC focuses on the role of entrepreneurship as a key policy component for the implementation of the international development strategy (ECLAC resolution 507 (XXIII)). The resolution emphasizes the need to reformulate the relationships between Governments and the private sector. Special attention is directed to institutional changes in order to foster the role of entrepreneurs in the development process.

68. Recent and current activities directly related to promoting the conditions for entrepreneurship in economic development include working meetings and technical cooperation on the role of the agricultural entrepreneur in Latin America, and design of policies to strengthen capacities for technological innovation and competitiveness of Latin American entrepreneurs.

69. Under the ILPES Training Programme courses are offered on policies for strengthening industrial and technological capacities.

70. Studies and technical publications provide support to local enterprise (namely, "Small and Medium-sized Industry in Latin America, Experiences and Potential"; "The Capital Goods Industry in Latin America, Present Situation and Potentialities"; "Problems of Small- and Medium-sized Industrial Enterprises, Methodological aspects in the Argentinean Case").

71. A number of extrabudgetary projects are designed specifically to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (that is to say: on strengthening of federal cooperatives savings and loan systems in Central America; advisory missions to several countries on the role of entrepreneurs in national development, access to credit by small and medium-sized enterprises; joint initiatives and strengthening of networks of entrepreneurs in specific sectors leading to the creation of the Latin American Mining Organization linking public corporations and private enterprise; Association of Capital Goods Industries whose members are mostly from the private sector; Association of Export Credit Insurance Agents involving national private insurance firms).

(j) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

72. At its forty-sixth session in 1990, ESCAP adopted recommendations regarding new initiatives for the promotion of small and medium-sized industries, and for a substantial expansion of programmes for entrepreneurship and managerial development. This includes linkages with large established industries, subcontracting arrangements and promotion of market opportunities. ESCAP emphasizes the need to design projects for the promotion of investments in the least developed countries.

73. With support from UNDP, ESCAP is organizing the Mechanism for Exchange of Technology Information, which will be directed at small and medium-scale enterprises. ESCAP is designing projects for the promotion of investment in least developed countries through interaction between entrepreneurs from these countries, and investors from developed and newly industrialized countries.

74. ESCAP maintains an active programme of seminars and workshops geared to the training of managers for local enterprises (namely, seminar on upgrading the expert management skills of the managers/owners of silk enterprises; subregional workshops for women executives on expert marketing; workshop on transfer of technology for entrepreneurial development).

75. A Technology Information Service and a bi-monthly "Tech-Monitor" focus on dissemination of information about technologies available from suppliers, and technology demands by users. The primary aim is to assist small and medium-size entrepreneurs in the areas of agro-processing, building materials and electronics. ESCAP undertakes studies and advisory services for the rehabilitation of small foundries and metal works. A Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery assists small and medium manufacturers of agricultural

machinery through study tours, advisory services and product demand surveys. A study on industrial restructuring is expected to lead to innovative projects for the promotion of small and medium-scale manufacturing enterprises.

76. A number of ESCAP programmes include activities to promote interaction between national entrepreneurs and external sources of support (i.e. Business Collaboration Meeting between Nepal and Germany (Cologne, 1990); sponsorship for the participation of silk exporting entrepreneurs in the Asian International Silk Fair (Munich, 1990)).

(k) United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

77. The Centre draws its mandates in this area from the "New Agenda for Human Settlements", adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements in 1987, and from the "Global Strategy for Shelter to the year 2000", adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 43/181 on 20 December 1988. They alert decision-makers in all countries to the important role of the private sector in human settlements. The role of Government is seen as establishing a strategy for the development of human settlements designed to mobilize the human and financial resources of the private sector and community groups as well as of local authorities.

78. UNCHS programmes in this field aim at assisting Governments in the development of regulatory mechanisms to advance initiatives of the private sector and of community based organizations. UNCHS interacts closely with the international associations which represent the private sector construction industry, the housing finance industry and real estate developers to develop housing policy recommendations, and exchange experience to create the frameworks to help mobilize investments in housing. Projects in a number of Asian and African countries, for example, aim at developing the mechanisms for the privatization of certain urban services (e.g. contractory, franchising, self-help) and by involving the local community and the private sector in the planning, construction and maintenance of housing and urban infrastructure. The "Sustainable Cities Programme" addresses the need to engage the public and private sectors in close cooperation for the development of environmental management mechanisms.

79. A number of projects in Africa and Asia emphasize the production and use of local building materials and centre on the training of artisans (men and women) and their involvement in the establishment of small-scale enterprises. UNCHS works closely with ILO and UNDP on the improvement of urban infrastructure through labour intensive works.

80. Projects in a number of African countries aim at establishing financial mechanisms specifically to provide credit to low-income families for construction of housing. They involve savings and credit schemes, mortgages and revolving funds.

81. The Centre supports the establishment of a coalition of public and

private sector finance institutions for housing in the Asian region. Their purpose is to facilitate the sharing of experience and technologies, help link housing finance activities to financial markets and expand access to credit. As a result of its programmes, UNCHS has generated investment commitments in the order of $1.85 billion in 1989.

(l) International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

82. The Centre aims to improve the development of products and markets of exporters of developing countries and thereby to strengthen their competitive position. The Centre's approach includes projects that are enterprise specific, tailor-made, comprehensive, covering both supply and demand aspects of export development and programmes for export-oriented joint ventures.

83. Technical cooperation activities of ITC focus on commodity exporting countries, where it cooperates closely with specific business enterprises. A major object is to deal with production, export and marketing problems encountered by individual enterprises.

84. Much of the demand for technical cooperation in the private sector, including cooperatives, is in the field of training and product development in order to attain better export processing.

85. The Centre devotes considerable effort to the provision of commodities and trade information. It designs activities to support the interests of developing countries in commodity diversification, processing, marketing and distribution. It assists local chambers of commerce and aids efforts to improve the effectiveness of indigenous entrepreneurs.

2. Specialized agencies and related organizations

(a) International Labour Organisation

86. Since 1958 numerous international labour recommendations and resolutions related to entrepreneurship which have been adopted by the International Labour Conference have mandated the ILO's long and extensive involvement in this area. The unique tripartite membership of ILO is of particular relevance with regard to the development of entrepreneurship requiring the organization to pursue its objectives through the participation of not only governments, but also employers' and workers' institutions. The subjects of these mandates relating to entrepreneurship have ranged from productive employment in agriculture, to vocational training, to employment policies relating to small undertakings, to means of training for managerial and entrepreneurship development. Overall strategy aims at assisting countries in the development of supportive policy and a favourable regulatory environment to institutionalize those objectives, and to assist in the development of institutions that will promote an integrated approach to the generation of business. The relevant programmes of the organization are: the Training

Programme; the Employment and Development Programme, and since March 1991, the programme on Enterprise Development and Cooperatives.

87. ILO plays a role as a convener of concerned parties on problems of labour and social questions. For several decades the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship has been on the agenda of several of its major regional and international conferences such as the International Labour Conference of 1986. Operational activities such as advisory services and a large technical cooperation programme backed up by action-oriented research have also been main means of action in this area and have resulted in guidelines on the process of enterprise creation, on improving business performance and on influencing the environment in which businesses operate. ILO also carries out mainstream activities relating to women in development which are aimed at influencing policy and legislation to facilitate opportunities for women in the micro-small-enterprise sector. The International Training Centre of the ILO at Turin plays an important role in the implementation of programmes for small and medium-sized enterprises and the development of entrepreneurship. Training programmes have been prepared to address the specific needs of women entrepreneurs, to improve their business performance and management skills, and for training trainers who work with women.

88. ILO established a technological information service (INSTEAD), which is of particular interest to small and medium-sized enterprises. It published numerous studies, training manuals and other materials concerned with the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises. Information available within INSTEAD is provided free of charge to entrepreneurs, non-governmental organizations and government agencies. Research is carried out on various aspects of small enterprise and development of entrepreneurship, including research on the effects of government policies and the socio-economic environment, on institutional mechanisms servicing and assisting the micro and small enterprise sector and on credit schemes for small-scale operators.

89. The ILO's International Institute for Labour Studies, which encourages and marshalls external research networking and assists countries in building their institutional capacity in the field of labour studies, has sponsored major studies on small business.

(b) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

90. FAO considers its technical cooperation programmes to be directly related to the government sector. Nevertheless, its governing bodies have introduced a new programme on private sector development. The envisaged activities cover agro-industry sectoral studies, policies for the transfer of technology, joint ventures, and the promotion of small-scale rural entrepreneurs.

91. An expert workshop for small-scale agro-industrial entrepreneurs from Africa was organized in late 1989 to help identify the type of assistance required from FAO in support of entrepreneurs from countries of the region.

It led to a number of specific recommendations, including on matters of national policy, legislative framework, training and interactions with the public and private sector. A "Study on FAO's Contribution to Entrepreneurial Development in Africa" was recently published.

(c) World Bank

92. The underlying premise of the Bank's strategy for promoting small and medium-sized enterprises is that a robust industrial base should contain a flourishing small industry sector, and that increasing the access of small firms to services normally available to larger established firms would further industrial growth and income distribution objectives.

93. One of the specific objectives at the project level concerns institution-building. Most projects aim to strengthen organizational capacity of financial and technical cooperation institutions to provide quality services to an expanding client base of small and medium-sized enterprises. The Bank's programme for Enterprise Development in Africa is partly aimed at exploring the potential for technical cooperation programmes to act as catalysts for enterprise development.

94. The Bank holds the view that small and medium-sized enterprises have the potential to create large numbers of jobs in some product groups and to generate more jobs per unit of capital invested than large industries. New initiatives in the Bank's small and medium-sized enterprises projects include the promotion of women entrepreneurs. IFC's Africa Project Development Facility (APDF) helps African entrepreneurs start new businesses, or to reorganize, expand or diversify existing ones.

95. In response to the potential of the APDF, the Bank's Board approved an extension of its mandate and funding to June 1995. The Bank also provides direct support to enterprises, usually through operations concerning small and medium-sized firms. Nearly $500 million have been committed for disbursement through arrangements with commercial banks. Bank lending to small and medium-sized enterprises is increasingly relying on commercial banks to reach small borrowers.

(d) International Monetary Fund

96. A major objective of the Fund is the development of private entrepreneurship as a key element in the promotion of economic growth. Countries in economic difficulties that receive financial support from the Fund typically face fiscal imbalances, which tend to crowd out private sector financing. To restore domestic and external financial stability, specific policies aimed at promoting private sector participation in investment and savings are important factors in the Fund's programme design. The nature of measures which encourage private sector activity is tailored to the circumstances of each country.

97. The IMF supports the availability of adequate financing for the private sector in several ways:

(a) Through a containment of the borrowing requirement of the public sector, making available more domestic financing to the private sector;

(b) By suggesting removal of credit controls, which in some countries tend to favour the existing production structure. The removal of these controls is often conducive to the promotion of new enterprises and to more efficient production;

(c) Through measures for reform of the financial sector which can promote the private sector, for instance, establishment and dispersion of more branches of the banking system, development of financial instruments and markets, including stock markets, and greater competition among financial institutions.

98. In countries where the private sector is underdeveloped, the Fund places additional emphasis on the strengthening of human capital through socially-oriented spending by the Government.

99. Foreign direct investment constitutes another important element for the promotion of private enterprise and production. In addition to the provision of external finance, it fosters transfer of technology, development of managerial skills and market access. In programmes supported by the Fund, foreign direct investment is encouraged through improvements in the economic situation and credit worthiness of the country, and partly through specific means such as the reform of restrictions on profit or capital transfers.

(e) International Fund for Agricultural Development

100. IFAD's explicit mandate is to help people in rural areas in the poorest countries to grow more food and alleviate rural poverty. It focuses on the small land-holders, on poor rural women, and on the landless and marginal farmers. Small-scale enterprises, cottage industries and small processing units are encouraged through policy development and institutional support. The Fund advocates that a rural industrialization strategy should be developed around agro-industrial complexes, consisting of medium, small-scale and cottage-based units.

101. The development of entrepreneurial capacities for small-scale enterprises has been one of the most significant components in all projects in 1990. This involves training, access to credit, marketing and extension, development of policy and institutional support. These projects are designed to strengthen both on-farm and off-farm enterprises.

102. Training programmes for entrepreneurs are considered essential components in most of the Fund's projects. Women entrepreneurs are prominent beneficiaries of these projects. The promotion of micro-enterprises for women

provide for the introduction of labour-saving devices to help free women from the long-standing practice and drudgery, for example, of fuel and water collection. Unemployed rural youth are being increasingly targeted in the Fund's projects.

(f) United Nations Industrial Development Organization

103. The Industrial Development Board established entrepreneurship as a new programme element in the organization's programme-budget beginning in 1988-89. Its aims are: the improvement of the policy environment for potential entrepreneurs and industries; development of a support infrastructure, including improved access to finance, technical and other information, training programmes; direct support to individual enterprises or entrepreneurs through local institutions.

104. UNIDO has an integrated approach to help develop small and medium-scale industries, through assistance at the policy-making, institutional and entrepreneurial levels, and through mutually supportive projects at the regional and national levels. It collaborates with ILO and FAO through inter-agency missions and at the project level. Workshops and high-level missions are conducted to develop conditions for privatization.

105. Pilot training projects were carried out to assist newly established businesses and existing industrial enterprises. A workshop was organized for government officials and policy makers to present UNIDO's framework for privatization, followed by formulation of concepts, action plans and project documents. Projects to develop entrepreneurship among rural population groups were carried out.

106. Business incubation centres in support of newly established enterprises are being developed. The "total quality concept" is being promoted in small industries to improve the quality of projects as well as of products in cottage industries and their competitiveness in world markets.

107. Advice is being provided at a high level to countries involved in economic restructuring, to develop privatization strategies and provide assistance to those concerned with implementation of strategies. A network of mutually supportive projects is being carried out to assist small and medium-sized enterprises involving regional and country projects.

Notes

a/ DIEC has prepared a detailed report on the activities of the United Nations system which will be available upon request in English only.

b/ UNDP, Human Development Report 1991, p. 17.

c/ UNHCR estimates that 80 per cent of refugees in the world are women and children.

Notes (continued)

d/ The World's Women, 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics. This publication, to be published in June 1991, was undertaken by DIESA, in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA, CSDHA and UNIFEM. The publication uses innovative techniques and formats to highlight the main findings on women's conditions worldwide. Women in the World of Work: Statistical Analysis and Projections to the Year 2000, International Labour Organisation.

e/ Dr. Amartya Sen. The New York Review of Books, 20 December 1990 on "More Than 100 Million Women are Missing" and the UNDP "Human Development Report 1991", p. 27.

f/ World Bank Development Report, 1990, p. 198.

g/ In many developing countries, especially in Africa, percentages of the total population with access to safe water can be as little as 16 per cent, as in Ethiopia and Mozambique. UNDP, Human Development Report 1990, p. 102.

h/ See resolution on "Women and the Environment" passed at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. The NFLS, the end product of the latter World Conference, calls for the incorporation of women in the development process and as wage earners in programmes to upgrade the environment.